

## GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

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**Site Name:** Residence

**Project File No:** 1161

**Address:** 94 Swanston Street Geelong 3220

**Approx. Date:** 1906

**Integrity:** Moderate-High

**Significance Level:** C (Local)

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**Photograph No:** 02.15

**Survey Date:** March 2002

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### History

This site at 94 Swanston Street, Geelong, is located on Lot 1, TP8914, which is part of Crown Allotment 20, Section 15B, of the Geelong Town Plan of 1881. Edmond was the original owner of the land.

In 1906, this weatherboard house was designed by the prominent Geelong architects, Laird and Barlow, for John Francis Kerley, a clerk. The contractor was J.N. Tingate who carried out building works at a cost of £613, the work being completed on 15 April 1907. The house initially consisted of 5 rooms, with a kitchen, pantry, servant's room, bathroom and washhouse, the kitchen being incorporated as part of the house as a 6th room by 1910. Considerable plumbing and drainage work was carried out on the site in 1921 by John Kerley, who lived in this residence until his death in the 1930s, after which the property was administered under the terms of his will, passing first to possibly his widow, Mary Jane Kerley in the 1940s, and then to his daughter, Lucy F. Kerley, in the 1950s. Lucy had a garage built on the north side of the house in 1977, at the same time installing an internal toilet in the house.

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## Description

The house at 94 Swanston Street, Geelong, is set on a large allotment with a sizeable front setback and narrower side setbacks. The front comprises perimeter garden beds (with standard roses along the front boundary) and open grassed areas. The front is also bound by a capped timber picket fence and scrolled metal gate that are approximately 1300 mm high.

The asymmetrical, single storey, horizontal weatherboard Federation styled house is characterised by a central steeply pitched hipped roof form, together with projecting minor gables at the front and side (at the rear) and a return verandah formed under the main roof. These roof forms are clad in galvanised corrugated steel. Early elongated, rendered and strapped brick chimneys with terra cotta pots adorn the roofline. Wide overhangs with exposed timber rafters are features of the eaves.

The front gable has an early projecting bay of timber framed double hung windows with a fluted window hood above. This hood has an affinity with the window hood also designed by Laird and Barlow for the house at 19 Pevensey Crescent, Geelong. There is also an early bank of timber framed double hung windows about the corner under the verandah, while the other timber framed double hung windows also appear to be early. The timber framed doorway with sidelight under the verandah towards the rear is also early.

Another feature of the design is the return verandah. It is supported by recent (but appropriate) turned timber verandah columns and has decorative timber fretwork valances. Another early decorative feature of the design is the gable infill.

## Statement of Cultural Significance

The house at 94 Swanston Street, Geelong, has significance has a relatively intact example of the Federation style. Built in 1906 for J.F. Kerley to a design by the prolific Geelong architects Laird and Barlow, the house appears to be in good condition when viewed from the street.

The house at 94 Swanston Street is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level. It demonstrates original design qualities of the Federation style. These qualities include the central steeply pitched hipped roof form, together with the projecting minor gables at the front and side (at the rear) and the return verandah formed under the main roof. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the asymmetrical composition, single storey height, horizontal weatherboard wall cladding, galvanised corrugated steel roof cladding, elongated, rendered and strapped brick chimneys with terra cotta pots, wide eaves with exposed timber rafters, projecting bay of timber framed double hung windows with a fluted window hood above, bank of timber framed double hung windows about the corner under the verandah, other timber framed double hung windows, timber framed doorway with sidelight, turned timber verandah columns, decorative timber fretwork verandah valances and the decorative gable infill. The front fence and gate also contribute to the significance of the place.

The house at 94 Swanston Street is historically significant at a LOCAL level. It is associated with residential developments in Geelong during the Federation period (c.1895-1915). In particular, this house has associations with J.F. Kerley, carrier and original owner, who had it built in 1906. The house has further associations with the prolific Geelong architects, Laird and Barlow, and the builder, J.N. Tingate.

Overall, the house at 94 Swanston Street is of LOCAL significance.

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### References

Reports and Drainage Plans, Barwon Water profits system, 1921, 1977.  
Sands & McDougall's Directory of Geelong, 1972, Geelong Historical Records Centre.  
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Aitken, Richard, Edwardian Geelong - An Architectural Introduction, Architecture Division, Deakin University, 1979.